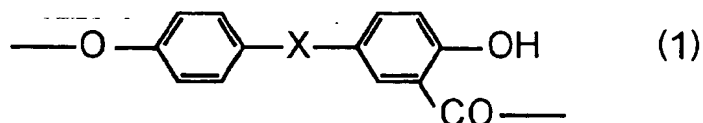
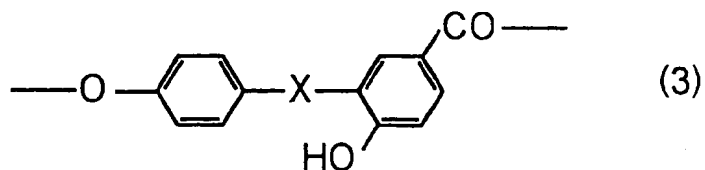
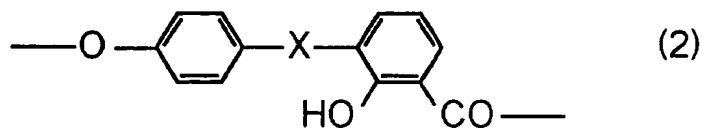


WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A branched aromatic polycarbonate obtained by transesterification and having a viscosity average molecular weight of at least 16,000, wherein the amount of structural units of the following formula (1) contained in its main chain is within a range of from 2,000 to 50,000 wtpm, and the amounts of structural units of the following formulae (2) and (3) contained in its main chain are within a range of from 30 to 10,000 wtpm, respectively:



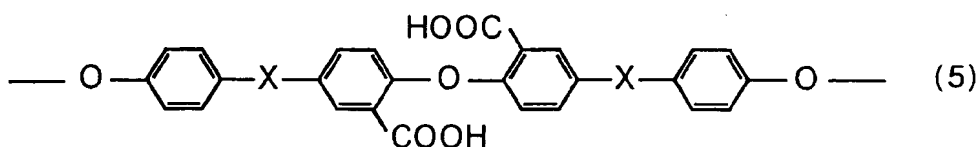
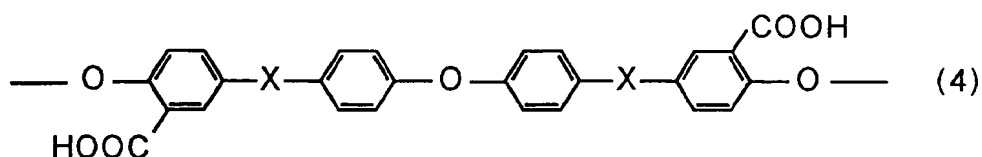
wherein X is a single bond, a C₁₋₈ alkylene group, a C₂₋₈ alkylidene group, a C₅₋₁₅ cycloalkylene group, a C₅₋₁₅ cycloalkylidene group or a member selected from bivalent groups represented by —O—, —S—, —CO—, —SO— and —SO₂—,



wherein X is a single bond, a C₁₋₈ alkylene group, a C₂₋₈

alkylidene group, a C₅₋₁₅ cycloalkylene group, a C₅₋₁₅ cycloalkylidene group or a member selected from bivalent groups represented by -O-, -S-, -CO-, -SO- and -SO₂-.

2. The branched aromatic polycarbonate according to
 5 Claim 1, wherein the total amount of structural units of the following formulae (4) and (5) contained in its main chain is within a range of from 10 to 10,000 wtpm:



wherein X is a single bond, a C₁₋₈ alkylene group, a C₂₋₈
 10 alkylidene group, a C₅₋₁₅ cycloalkylene group, a C₅₋₁₅ cycloalkylidene group or a member selected from bivalent groups represented by -O-, -S-, -CO-, -SO- and -SO₂-.

3. The branched aromatic polycarbonate according to
 Claim 1, wherein the amount of the structural units of
 15 the formula (1) contained in its main chain is within a range of from 3,000 to 10,000 wtpm.

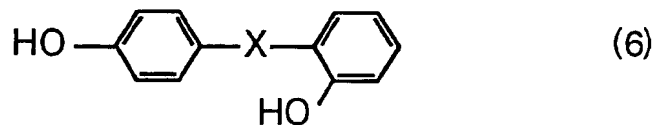
4. The branched aromatic polycarbonate according to
 Claim 1, wherein the amounts of the structural units of
 the formulae (2) and (3) contained in its main chain are
 20 within a range of from 30 to 5,000 wtpm, respectively.

5. The branched aromatic polycarbonate according to

Claim 2, wherein the total amount of the structural units of the formulae (4) and (5) contained in its main chain is within a range of from 10 to 3,000 wtpm.

6. The branched aromatic polycarbonate according to Claim 1, wherein the viscosity average molecular weight is at least 18,000.

7. A method for producing the branched aromatic polycarbonate as defined in Claim 1, which comprises reacting a carbonic acid diester with an aromatic dihydroxy compound to produce an aromatic polycarbonate, wherein an aromatic dihydroxy compound containing a 2,4'-bisphenol compound of the following formula (6) in an amount of from 100 to 50,000 wtpm is used:



wherein X is a single bond, a C₁₋₈ alkylene group, a C₂₋₈ alkylidene group, a C₅₋₁₅ cycloalkylene group, a C₅₋₁₅ cycloalkylidene group or a member selected from bivalent groups represented by -O-, -S-, -CO-, -SO- and -SO₂-.

8. The method for producing the branched aromatic polycarbonate according to Claim 7, wherein the 2,4'-bisphenol compound is 2,4'-dihydroxydiphenyl-2,2-propane.

9. The method for producing the branched aromatic polycarbonate according to Claim 7, wherein the aromatic dihydroxy compound containing the 2,4'-bisphenol compound in an amount of from 100 to 10,000 wtpm is used.

10. The method for producing the branched aromatic polycarbonate according to Claim 7, wherein the carbonic acid diester is diphenyl carbonate.
11. The method for producing the branched aromatic polycarbonate according to Claim 7, wherein the aromatic dihydroxy compound is 2,2-bis(4-hydroxyphenyl)propane.
12. The method for producing the branched aromatic polycarbonate according to Claim 7, wherein when the carbonic acid diester is reacted with the aromatic dihydroxy compound to produce an aromatic polycarbonate, an alkali metal compound and/or an alkaline earth metal compound is used as a transesterification catalyst.
13. The method for producing the branched aromatic polycarbonate according to Claim 12, wherein the amount of the alkali metal compound and/or the alkaline earth metal compound is from 1×10^{-8} to 1×10^{-5} per 1 mol of the aromatic dihydroxy compound.